

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 29 AUGUST 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at <https://sarlnnewsbulletin.wordpress.com/>.

To join the bulletin mailing list, please send an email to the SARL Secretary.

We begin this bulletin with the news of Silent Keys:

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Edox Earle ZS6EAR on the 22nd of August 2021. We extend our condolences to his family and friends.

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Frank Schoombie ZR6RC on the 21st of August 2021. We extend our condolences to his wife, family and friends.

Pause

In the news today:

SARL HF CW CONTEST

ICASA PUBLIC HEARING ON DRAFT EQUIPMENT AUTHORISATION REGULATIONS

AND

SARL Next Generation Beacon fund

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

THE SARL HF CW CONTEST ON 29 AUGUST

The aim of the HF CW Contest is for participants to contact as many radio amateurs in Southern Africa as possible on 20, 40, and 80 metres and will run from 14:00 to 17:00 UTC (16:00 to 19:00 CAT) on Sunday 29 August. The exchange is an RST report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001. Each QSO counts 2 points. Send your log sheet to zs4bfm@mweb.co.za by no later than 23:59 CAT on Friday 3 September 2021. Log sheet number 41 will win a SARL Membership! Get all the rules on page 86 of the 2021 Blue Book.

ICASA PUBLIC HEARING ON DRAFT EQUIPMENT AUTHORISATION REGULATIONS

ICASA held a public hearing about the draft equipment authorisation regulations. The SARL presented its case. It became clear that ICASA is looking at two scenarios. Homebrew equipment is part of the exclusion scenario. The SARL made a case to have kits included in this category. When it comes to amateur radio equipment manufactured commercially, then equipment authorization or type approval will be required. Judging from comments made by ICASA councillors it is clear that they are open to accepting the conformity certificates from other national jurisdictions. The SARL was asked to submit further documentation on issues raised at the hearing.

ICASA recently published the 2021 draft National Frequency Plan. The SARL has carefully studied the plan and has found some errors in respect of amateur allocations particularly in the 160 metre band and the omission of the 40 MHz allocation. The SARL has submitted its findings to ICASA and has requested to make a presentation at the hearing scheduled for early September. More details will be included in next week's SARL News.

SARL Next Generation Beacon fund.

The crowd funding initiative to collect funds for the SARL next generation beacon programme was initiated by AMSAT SA. The R25 200 collected to date is far from the R60 000 required to finance a beacon in the Karoo and in the Western Cape. AMSAT SA and the SARL would like to thank all who have contributed so far.

At the monthly meeting held on Thursday, the Beacon group reviewed the progress of the testing of a telemetry and remote-control system to fit to the Bethlehem beacon and all future beacons. Work is also progressing on a reverse beacon monitoring solution where the telemetry system will also have the ability to automatically retrieve log files from the remote beacon monitoring software. Good progress is being made on a site in the Karoo as well.

To stay up to date with the beacon programme listen to Brian Jacob's "Focus on VHF and above" transmitted weekly on the programme Amateur Radio Today.

Help us to make it happen by donating to the fund and reach the target of R60 000 over the next month.

Visit www.amsatsa.org.za and make your contribution by clicking on one of the payment buttons for a R50, R250 or R1000 donation. The button will take you to the Payfast website where you need to enter your credit card details. Please also add your callsign after your surname.

Visit the Next Generation Beacon web page for articles, videos, updates and a list of donors. There are links on the SARL and AMSAT SA home pages.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE SARL HF DIGITAL CONTEST

Eleven logs and one check log were received for the SARL HF Digital Contest held on 15 August.

RTTY

1st Jan Botha, ZS4JAN - 44 points
2nd Marius Snyman, ZR6MS and Keith Barker, ZS6HI - 17,5 points
4th Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC - 10,5 points

PSK31

1st Jan Botha, ZS4JAN - 47,5 points
2nd Marius Snyman, ZR6MS - 21 points
3rd Keith Barker, ZS6HI - 17,5 points

FT8

1st Gerhard Coetzee, ZS3TG - 68,5 points
2nd Stewart Clark, ZR6WT - 50,5 points
3rd Hans Potgieter, ZS1ALJ - 49,5 points

Club Competition

1st Sandton ARC - 124 points
2nd Northern Cape ARC - 103,5 points
3rd Bloemfontein ARC - 91,5 points

ZS4JAN in JA CQ magazine

During June 2021, Jan ZS4JAN received an email from Seiji Okumura JK1KSB in Tokyo. He is the columnist for DX World - High Band DXing in JA CQ magazine. He introduces active stations on high bands through his articles. A short interview was conducted for the August 2021 publication. The interview scoped on personal background, interest in Amateur Radio and current equipment in use. Jan has received an email copy of the published article in Japanese while awaiting the complimentary magazine through the post.

ZS6WR Boot sale 4 September

The West Rand Amateur radio club (ZS6WR) would like to invite all to the upcoming boot sale on Saturday 4 September. Please note that the gates will open earlier than usual at 10h00 for everyone and trading can start at 10h30. Please note that all preventative COVID protocols will be followed on the day so please wear your face mask and keep your social distance.

All the usual vendors will attend, and the club will also have a table. Book your stand and table by contacting Phillip ZS6PVT on 083 267 3853 or ZS6PVT@GMAIL.COM

Latest edition of The 5 MHz Newsletter now available for download

The latest edition of The 5 MHz Newsletter (No 27 -Summer 2021) is now available for free pdf download from the 'External Links' section of the Wikipedia 60m Band page or the RSGB 5 MHz page

This edition includes 5 MHz news from 9 countries, GB2RS 5 MHz Update, Between Dusk and Dawn, The World of 5 MHz Summer 2021 and a US 5 MHz Website.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels. There are currently a few sunspot regions visible and some minor C-class flaring activity is possible.

If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around seven.

The 17 to 30 m bands will during the late afternoons provide some DX fun.

Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

29 Aug – SARL HF CW Contest

31 Aug – Secunda ARC meeting

04 Sept – WR Fleamarket, Region 1 Field Day

04 Sept – Durban ARC Meeting

05 Sept – Region 1 Field Day

06 Sept – Rosh Hashanah

07 Sept – New moon

08 Sept – Early morning Coffee Sprint

11 and 12 Sept – SARL National Field Day; WAE SSB Contest

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The SARL HF CW contest is on today from 14:00 to 17:00 UTC (16:00 to 19:00 CAT).

The aim of the HF Contests is for participants to contact as many amateurs in Southern Africa as possible on the 20, 40 and 80m amateur bands.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page.

News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by email to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Andy Cairns ZS6ADY, edited by Paul Johnson ZS1S and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.